

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising:

a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability;

a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting; and

a controlling device that controls a diaphragm mechanism to set ~~an~~ the aperture within the aperture range determined by said second determining device for obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus, and controls the diaphragm mechanism to set an aperture within the aperture range determined by said first determining device for recording of an image.

3-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A camera, comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm mechanism that adjusts an amount of light which enters the camera through said taking lens;

a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability;

a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting; and

a controlling device that controls the diaphragm mechanism to set ~~an~~the aperture within the aperture range determined by said second determining device for obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus, and controls the diaphragm mechanism to set an aperture within the aperture range determined by said first determining device for recording of an image.

7-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A method for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising the steps of:

determining an aperture out of an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability; and

controlling a diaphragm mechanism to use said aperture according to a shooting mode selected.

17. (Original) The method for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 16, wherein the aperture is used when a portrait mode is selected as the shooting mode.

18-26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) An apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising:
a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability;
a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting; and
a controlling device that controls a diaphragm mechanism to set the aperture within the aperture range determined by said second determining device for the normal shooting according to a shooting mode selected.

28. (Original) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 27, wherein the controlling device uses said second determining device when a portrait mode is selected as the shooting mode.

29-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A camera, comprising:
a taking lens;

a diaphragm mechanism that adjusts an amount of light entering the camera through a taking lens;

a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability;

a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting;

a shooting mode setting device that sets a shooting mode; and

a controlling device that controls the diaphragm mechanism to set ~~an~~ the aperture within the aperture range according to the shooting mode selected by said shooting mode setting device.

39. (Original) The camera as defined in claim 38, wherein the controlling device uses said second determining device when a portrait mode is selected by said shooting mode setting device.

40-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 2, wherein an operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed prior to shooting for recording of the image.

51. (New) The camera as defined in claim 6, wherein an operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed prior to shooting for recording of the image.

52. (New) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 50, wherein the operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed by half-depressing a release button, and the shooting for the recording of the image is performed by fully depressing the release button.

53. (New) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 51, wherein the operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed by half-depressing a release button, and the shooting for the recording of the image is performed by fully depressing the release button.

54. (New) An apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising:

a first determining device that determines a first aperture range used for securing a predetermined optical capability when shooting for recording an image, the first aperture range being used for obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus;

a second determining device that determines a second aperture range including an aperture out of an aperture range of the first aperture range; and

a controlling device that controls a diaphragm mechanism to set the aperture within the first aperture range determined by said second determining device, and controls the diaphragm mechanism to set the aperture within the first aperture range determined by said first determining device for recording of the image.

55. (New) A camera, comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm mechanism that adjusts an amount of light which enters the camera through said taking lens;

a first determining device that determines a first aperture range used for securing a predetermined optical capability when shooting for recording an image, the first aperture range being used for obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus;

a second determining device that determines a second aperture range including an aperture out of an aperture range of the first aperture range; and

a controlling device that controls the diaphragm mechanism to set the aperture within the first aperture range determined by said second determining device, and controls the diaphragm mechanism to set the aperture within the first aperture range determined by said first determining device for recording of the image.